



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

SBOH 01-09

For immediate release: September 7, 2001

Contact: Craig McLaughlin, State Board of Health, (360) 236-4106

Board of Health Meets in Spokane on September 12

Sept. 12, 9:00 a.m.–3:15 p.m., WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, 303 W North River Drive, Vancouver, Wash.

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Board of Health will hold its regular monthly meeting in Spokane, Washington, on Wednesday, September 12.

The Board will hear a presentation from Spokane Mayor John Powers, Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, health officer for the Spokane Regional Health District, Vic Forni, executive director of the United Way of Spokane and others about the Spokane Poverty Assessment. The Health District and the United Way are leading this comprehensive effort to assess poverty levels and to identify the implications and consequences of living in poverty—including adverse health impacts. Working to eliminate health disparities, including the greater burden of diseases experienced by people living in poverty, is one of the Board's priority work areas.

Monica Tonel of the federal Environmental Protection Agency will also provide an update about Lake Roosevelt and Spokane River environmental health issues. In addition, local health jurisdictions will request an increase in the fee charged for food worker cards. The Board will hear a motion to seek a legislative exemption from the Initiative 601 cap on fee increases. This would allow the Board to raise the fee if it decides to do so after further review and discussion. The Board's primary focus in the afternoon will be a review of work plans for the coming biennium in its priority areas of environmental health, access to critical health services, and genetic privacy.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health or by visiting the board's Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/>.

###

The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.